



# Help America Vote Act

*North Dakota's Effort to Ensure Every Vote Counts*  
[www.discovernd.com/hava](http://www.discovernd.com/hava)

*Danette Odenbach*  
*HAVA Coordinator*

## PRESS RELEASE

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For More Information:  
Danette Odenbach, HAVA Coordinator  
Office: 701-328-7300  
Cell: 701-471-9490

### HAVA MAKES POSITIVE CHANGES IN THE VOTING PROCESS

The act of voting is not something the disabilities community takes lightly. Many persons with disabilities have never been able to vote independently without assistance. The Help America Vote Act (HAVA), which was by Congress and signed into law in 2002, has set the stage for positive reform in the voting process, putting in place steps that will make it possible for most citizens to vote without assistance by 2006.

One of the most important pieces of HAVA deals directly with accessibility issues, both at the polling site and on equipment used for voting. By the 2006 election cycle, all North Dakota polling sites will be surveyed to meet ADA accessibility standards for existing facilities, as published by the U.S. Department of Justice.

Independent voting opportunities for all persons will be achieved with the addition of touch-screen voting devices at all polling sites. Users of the touch-screen devices will be offered information in accessible formats, such as larger type and auditory instructions for persons with visual impairments, and touch sensitive screens for those with limited dexterity.

Accessibility of all polling locations will be achieved statewide by 2006, however, improvements are being made for the 2004 election cycle. If you know of accessibility issues in your local precinct, contact your county auditor prior to Election Day to discuss voting options.

For more information, please contact your county auditor or the Secretary of State's Office Elections Division at 800-352-0867, or TTY 701-328-2001.

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*A Cooperative  
Effort By*



*Secretary of State's Office*  
*Al Jaeger, Secretary of State*